

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Amended). A measuring tape for measuring the distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having one fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub, and having a free end extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and

a tab fixed to the free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point, said tab extending in a plane perpendicular to the blade in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade.

14. (Amended) A ruler for measuring the distance from a reference point to a second point comprising

a base having a reference end and an opposed end, said base comprising an elongated rectangular-shaped flat material, and having two sets of numbers imprinted on the base which correspond to units of measure,

the first set of numbers imprinted along a first

lengthwise edge of the base and positioned on the base such that the numbers are arranged in upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from the reference end toward the opposed end, and

the second set of numbers imprinted along a second lengthwise edge of the base and positioned on the base such that the numbers are arranged one after the other in upside-down position, relative to the first set of numbers, and increase in value when read from the reference end toward the opposed end,

wherein one set of numbers is legible right-side-up whether measuring from right to left when the point being measured from is located to the right of the point being measured to or whether measuring from left to right when the point being measured from is located to the left of the point being measured to;

further comprising a tab fixed to the free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point, said tab having a planar surface extending in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade.

17. (Amended) A measuring tape for measuring the distance between a first point and a second point

consisting essentially of

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having one fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around the blade hub, and having a free end extending from the housing through the blade outlet,

the blade having two sets of indicia imprinted thereon which correspond to units of measure,

the first set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a first lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the blade such that the numbers are arranged in upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from the free end of the blade toward the fixed end of the blade,

the second set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a second lengthwise edge portion of the blade and positioned on the blade such that the numbers are arranged in upside-down position one after the other, relative to the first set of numbers, and increase in value when read from the free end of the blade toward the fixed end of the blade, and

a removable tab fixed to free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point,

wherein one of the sets of numbers is legible right-side-up whether the free end of the blade is positioned at the first point or the second point.

22. (Amended) A tab extension for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of a blade of a measuring tape to the point being measured from, the measuring tape comprising a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing, a flexible elongated blade having one fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub, and having a free end extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and a tab fixed to free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to the first point, the tab extension comprising
a connection portion having means for removably connecting the tab extension to the tab fixed to the free end of the blade of the measuring tape, and
a hooking device portion extending in at least two directions to a lengthwise edge of the blade of the measuring tape in a plane perpendicular to the blade of the measuring tape at the free end of the blade when the tab extension is connected to the tab of the measuring tape.

26. (Amended) A ruler for measuring the distance from a first point to a second point comprising

a base portion having a left end and a right end, the base comprising an elongated rectangular-shaped flat material, and

a set of numbers imprinted on the base which corresponds to units of measure,

the set of numbers being positioned on the base such that the numbers are arranged in upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from the right end of the base to the left end of the base,

wherein the set of numbers is legible right-side-up when measuring from right to left;

further comprising a tab fixed to at least one end of said flat material for temporarily and removably hooking an end of said flat material to the first point, said tab having a planar surface extending in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the flat material at at least one end of said flat material.

Claim 29, line 2, replace "end" with -- and --